

What are the Information Needs of Communities & Citizens? We need protection against control of information by small group of media owners with diametrically opposed political needs than the mass of households and voters.

Current power over media to a "select" too few is granted by 1. lack of FCC licensing ownership diversity requirements, or fairness, equal time, and multi-partisan balanced report rules, 2. lack of Anti-Trust prosecutions, 3. Supreme Court rulings too numerous to cite, but compounded by Buckley vs Valeo, Citizen's United vs Federal Elections Board, and others in the "money as speech" , campaign finance, or "protecting private property from downward redistribution" realm. They are all legacy of Madisonian protections to slave owners from mass public opinion against slavery derived from Federalist Papers, which are masked by "libertarian" "hands-off" jurisprudence "philosophy". But "hands-off" literally means "hands-on" by a few selected on the basis of wealth over everybody else.

These Supreme Court rulings all subtly hand power over view point to those few with money to broadcast their own, or shape others. This is evident by the growth of beltway "think tanks" and "astroturf" in the 1970s after Buckley vs Valeo. These rulings block diversity of viewpoint in the minds of voters, freedom of press to watchdog those in power, and perhaps more importantly, those who have the money and power to put and keep "those in power" in the first place at will, and on a whim.

Another bad outcome for all of our prosperity (except those at the Top who need no open marketplace, and desire no new competition to their dynastic pre-eminence over money here) is the blocking of the "market place for information and ideas". This blocking is demonstrated by clear polling evidence comparing to Europeans that shows Americans are propagandized and deliberately misled on important issues like Climate change, Iraq War and military deficit spending, and causes of the economic collapse. This blocking also explains failures of important new knowledge and ideas to take root which lead to economic dynamism, new competition, and growth through Schumpeterian "creative destruction" or "non-destructive creation".

The damaging effects of this blocking of free information is already evident on our moribund economy, a another jobless "recovery" caused by concentration of 50% of employment in the large corporate sector instead of more dynamic SME sector, compared to 35% in Europe, and even less in higher growth BRIC economies.

How is Commercial Media Serving Your Community?

No. The commercial media is beholden to owners, corporate advertisers, and "consumption" economics in general. They seem to have inordinate ties to supporting the Military Industrial Complex, as well, because they eat right out of that hand. Examining cross-shareholdings and cross-

directorships on board of these companies would be very instructive for Free Press, and us supporters. My community is definitely NOT served by this commercial media. It is scapegoated by this commercial media. My life is in danger with the violence they are mongering on FCC licenses for TV and Talk Radio!

What is the State of Noncommercial, Nonprofit, and Public Media?

NFP, community and public media are fledgling because they exist at the behest of cable monopolies to support them with fees they try to reduce every year.

They are also fledgling because Congress thinks it has the right to dictate what PBS covers (i.e. Palestine/Israel 1980s first big blow up) that lead to the first firing of PBS exec in circa 1983, and systematic vilified public media to cut funding since the 1980s under Reagan. FCC licenses now pay no fees to PBS as was the original intent of the FCC licensing public airwaves to private enterprise. This was also a change made by Congress.

Political oversight of non- partisan media has to be removed from elected officials toward more of an independent system like the BBC, or CBC. PBS is great because it is all independent production companies. The sources of money have to be figured out though. Costs of editorial and production keep going down with technology advances, so more and more voices could be heard with more and more production companies, not fewer. Even France allows the President to appoint the head of state broadcasting, with which I do not now agree after everything I've seen happen here in this country with dis-information and manipulation the last 30 years. Our Congress' history proving its willingness to meddle in Watchdog media in violation of the Constitution is not a good one. The Supreme Court is also not a trustworthy institution on this matter either, as it allows in the first instance the campaign finance regime which in fact causes congress to meddle on behalf of the business interests ! of their largest donors, 2. and propaganda rights like Buckley vs Valeo in the second instance. There are other more subtle instances too.

What is the Impact of the Internet and Mobile Information?

We need 100% broadband coverage of every community in this country at higher and higher speeds so that all Americans can participate equally in the global networked, innovation, and knowledge based economy. We are falling in rankings for preparedness for innovation in the next decades because unregulated monopolies are not investing fully in 100% coverage and technology upgrades. They are instead "profit takers", short-selling the future of American families and getting away with it by people like the commissioners of the FCC, US congress, and Supreme Court.

100% national coverage of any service or utility requires regulating state granted monopolies for private investors, or state public provision of "public goods", just like 100% electrification of the country required the New Deal. The New Deal had to cover for the failure of Wall Street to electrify

the rural South of its own profit making accord, due to not enough profits naturally inherent in rural or economically disadvantaged markets. Public health, water, sewage, trains, transportation, highways, education, and increasingly healthcare, are all other examples of where private capital and business fail to provide all the goods needed by all citizens regardless of ability to pay.